

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's Emergency Public Information Center is a facility designed to provide emergency information to the media and the public. The PIC is located in the Engineering Research Office Building, 2525 Fremont Avenue in Idaho Falls. It provides a location for holding news conferences, providing official INEEL information, facilitating communications with tribal, state and local public information officers and responding to questions posed by employees and the public. The PIC provides prompt and accurate information to help ensure the health and safety of the public and the environment.

Activation

In the event of an emergency at the INEEL, the PIC is activated automatically. The PIC can also be activated for non-emergency events that generate public interest.

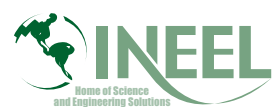
Once operational, PIC staff members notify state, local and tribal public information officers and invite media and public information officers to the facility. There, the media are provided news releases, technical briefings and news conferences. Information released to the media and the public is coordinated as much as possible with tribal, state and local officials.

Check-In

Media visitors to the PIC may enter the main lobby area and the adjoining PIC conference room without having to check in with INEEL security or obtain camera/recorder passes between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For the hours 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., visitors must notify the PIC they are coming so they may be let into the building.

Briefings

The INEEL Public Information Director and other public information officials at the PIC provide regular briefings to visiting media. Technical briefings and press conferences with INEEL management are scheduled when warranted. In an emergency situation that lasts through the night, a press conference with INEEL management is held at 10 a.m. the following day.



Facilities

Telephones and a fax machine are provided for media use. Long distance calls must be charged to an individual's charge card or charges can be reversed. Restrooms and vending machines are located near the conference room.

Interviews

INEEL Public Affairs makes every attempt to accommodate interview requests. Accommodations also are made for video, photography and recording equipment.

Media Packets

Background information on INEEL facilities, facility maps, and file video footage are available to the media.

Courtesy

The INEEL Public Information Support Director works diligently to obtain information about the existing situation. If the director cannot take questions, reporters may write them down and submit them to the media support staff or the PIC manager, who sees that questions are addressed.

Security

Members of the media are expected to understand and follow all security rules while visiting the PIC. Any security violation will result in the violator's immediate removal from the facility. Questions about security procedures or requests for assistance can be addressed to INEEL personnel working as media support staff in the PIC.

Media Inquiry Telephone Number

The PIC provides a media inquiry telephone line for those journalists who are unable to report to the facility. PIC staff members answer the telephone and provide whatever information is available to the inquiring media. Media can call (208) 526-9206 to obtain that information.

Public Inquiry Telephone Number

The PIC provides a public inquiry telephone line for the general public who have questions or concerns regarding an INEEL event. PIC staff members answer the telephone and provide whatever information is available to the inquiring callers. The public can call (208) 526-5042 to obtain that information.

Contact INEEL at our toll-free number:

1-800-708-2680

or visit our web site:

<http://www.inel.gov>.

